

REMARKS

This response is filed concurrently with a request for continued examination. Currently Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been examined and stand rejected. Claims 10-12 have been added. Reconsideration of Claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is more than one paragraph. The abstract should be a single paragraph and may not exceed 150 words in length.

The abstract has been corrected to be a single paragraph and has been reworded. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the abstract.

The Rejection of Claims 1-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamayachi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,943,516) in view of Wolski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,447,619).

Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended to recite "wherein the laser beam is produced by a laser that is used to produce via holes in the printed circuit board." This amendment is supported in the specification, at least, on page 16, lines 1-16. An advantage of using the laser processing apparatus for both forming the via holes of the printed circuit board and etching the photoresist layer is reducing the number of apparatuses used in the fabrication of the printed circuit board.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness requires a suggestion or motivation either in the references or in the knowledge generally available to modify a reference, or to combine references, a reasonable expectation of success, and all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art references.

Neither the Kamayachi patent or the Wolski patent, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "wherein the laser beam is produced by a laser that is used to produce via holes in the printed circuit board."

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Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paulus (U.S. Patent No. 5,626,774) in view of Wolski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,447,619).

Neither the Paulus patent, alone or in view of the Wolski patent, teaches or suggests "wherein the laser beam is produced by a laser that is used to produce via holes in the printed circuit board." Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 10-12

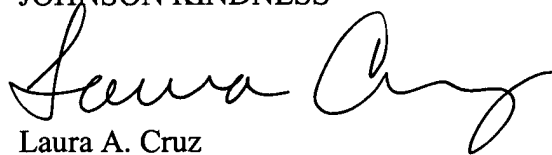
Claims 10-12 are new. Claims 10-12 are supported in the specification, at least, on page 16, lines 1-6. Applicant submits that dependent Claims 10-12 are allowable over the references of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may contact the applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

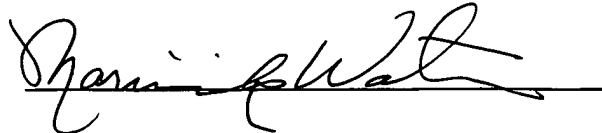
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: February 8, 2006
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